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THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1912.

PROBE DEEP.

Of the utmost importance to the welfare and reputation of Richmond is the investigation of the alleged frauds in city elections to be initiated to-day by the grand jury of the Hustings Court. Rumors and charges are afloat everywhere, and if evil conditions and evil practices exist they should be brought to light and corrupt manipulators of elections brought to book. The examination of the witnesses should be of the most searching character, and full and unreserved testimony should be encouraged by those charged with the duty of inquiry.

If fraudulent and corrupt practices have been used in past elections they should be detected and stamped out before the next two unusually important primaries are held. The slightest suspicion of the possibility of fraud in the forthcoming primary for the Administrative Board must be forestalled; those who are elected to administer the government of Richmond must have the full confidence of the people. Under a pure election system, devoid of fraud, there will still exist many political practices which are near the line, and the people will have work enough to do in breaking up such practices, without having open fraud added in.

Let the probe go to the bottom. If there is fraud, let it be known so that its "nerve" can be "killed."

RIGHT FOR ROOSEVELT; WRONG FOR TAFI.

"No more scandalous abuse of Federal patronage has ever been seen than we have seen in the last two months." That was the charge which Roosevelt directed at President Taft in his speech at Pittsburgh April 9, thereby indicting himself to a far greater degree than his successor in office.

Fifty of the large numbers of delegates and alternates from the South are pledged to Mr. Taft as Federal officeholders. In 1901 Colonel Roosevelt went to the Chicago convention which nominated him for the presidency, 187 officeholders from the South, either as delegates or alternates. In 1904 he made use of even more Federal officeholders from the South when an effort was made to permit him a third term. At that time 220 men who held office through Roosevelt went to the Republican National Convention either as delegates or alternates.

What Roosevelt calls "pernicious political activity" of Federal officeholders was twice as great under his own administration as under Mr. Taft's. The World has dug out the neuter, and they speak for themselves as to the propriety of Roosevelt's denunciation of Mr. Taft.

Of the 137 Federal officeholders elected from fifteen Southern States and Territories to attend the Republican National Convention in 1904, only 80 were alternates, while 101 were delegates. All these officeholders participated directly in delivering the solid votes of their respective States and Territories for the renomination of Roosevelt.

Roosevelt in 1905 increased his following of Federal officeholders from the South so that he controlled 120 officeholding delegates and 120 officeholding alternates. These 240 Federal employees attended the convention, and were never criticized for it, although Roosevelt beforehand ordered that no officeholders should be sent to Chicago "for me," as he put it.

A total of more than \$400,000 was being drawn annually from the government by the 137 "perniciously active" government employees who were delegates or alternates from the South for Roosevelt in 1904. The roll call of the Republican National Convention that year, it has been estimated, "would have represented fully \$1,200,000 in what Colonel Roosevelt has called the bribery and corruption method of using patronage, providing the same proportion of salaries and the same proportion of Federal officeholders were represented among the delegates from the other States."

In 1905, when Colonel Roosevelt asserted that the voters would have to take him if they refused to take Taft, the Federal officeholding delegates from the South were receiving a total of \$150,000 in salaries yearly from the government.

In Virginia in 1904 fourteen delegates and five alternates pulled down \$20,000 in patronage; in 1905 ten delegates and fourteen alternates represented \$40,000 in patronage.

It looks like a case of the kettle calling the pot black this time.

A FRENCH AWAKENING.

France appears to have awakened at last to full realization of the size of the task she has obligated herself to perform in Morocco, and to appreciation of the "look view" of the difficulties before her taken by outside students of the situation and prospects. French military authorities estimate that it will take twelve

years to subdue the country. General Lyautey, pronounced "the ablest general in the French army, and who has seen wide and successful service in wars in the republic's outside dominions," has been appointed to the supreme command of the forces in Morocco, and the invading and pacifying columns are to be reinforced until they are raised to the standard of a grand army corps.

Some military critics, both at home and abroad, are quoted as of the opinion that the twelve-year limit for subjugation is rather optimistic. All things considered, it must be admitted that there are grounds for their doubt. It took France nearly a generation to conquer Algeria. If indeed it has yet been completely conquered, it is true that for years the possession has for the main part been "subdued," but it is equally true that coincident with the later Moroccan troubles, Italy's seizure of Tripoli, and native Tripolitan armed resentment to the seizure, there have been serious signs of spasmodic revolt, at least in Algeria. Not in several decades have the French there felt the necessity of being so much on the alert as at present.

Notwithstanding efforts to suppress or minimize the facts, it is known that in the last few months France has had to employ the iron hand vigorously in both Algeria and Tunisia for the purpose of "restoring order." There are grave indications that although discontented elements in subjugation, it still dreams out of the slumber it has from time to time of late aroused in fitful but dangerous starts.

Geographically, as well as to population, Morocco is a far more formidable country than Tripoli to subjugate and establish foreign sovereignty over. It presents far greater obstacles to the rapid movement of troops than Tripoli, parts of it abound in natural fastnesses, and the people are, as respects thousands of them, the most fanatical, intolerant and revengeful of all Mohammedans. These conditions in themselves justify the view of the skeptics touching the twelve-year limit, to say nothing of the menace of the influence of the Fez outbreak and of the Tripolitan cause against the Italian invader, working to encourage an organized and widespread Algerian uprising.

It will therefore be seen that the apprehensions of the challengers of the twelve-year opinion are vindicated by two obviously reasonable considerations—one representing a positive condition and the other a problematic but at the same time far from impossible development. So this as it may, however, there can be no question that it is well that France has awakened, as suggested.

In any event, with her experience in Algeria before her, it would seem certain that the harder and the sooner the French strike in heavy force, and the more seriously they contemplate the situation, the greater must be the reduction of time of pacification. The greater, moreover, the assurance against other factors and influences entering into the problem to complicate it and retard its solution. The awakening is a happy and may prove a momentous one, affecting the interest not only of France, but of all the other powers overlying Mohammedan tribes and subjects.

THE SQUARE SPORT.

The average American believes that baseball is the cleanest and fairest of all outdoor sports, but Dean Le Baron R. Briggs, of Harvard, thinks not.

In his yearly report Dean Briggs has to say that "the fundamental question whether baseball is a fit game for college students cannot be answered until those in charge of the game make it clear what is baseball and what is not."

Admitting that no two persons are likely to draw exactly the same line between honorable strategy and low trick, he seems to be of the opinion that sharp practice of a sort about which there can be no difference exists in the game as it is played to-day.

Sharp practice does exist in baseball. It is to be found in all sports. It is to be found in business and every other activity where there is contest and competition. So far as the players are concerned, it is the exception, not the rule. If the spectators in the grandstand and the bleachers exhibited the same sense of fairness and good sportsmanship that characterized most of the men on the diamond there would be little fault-finding with the ethics of the game.

It is the extreme partiality of the home crowd which constitutes the only incident against the game to which weight can be attached. Such championing often leads to the use of unfair and unsportsmanlike methods. On the other hand, it must be said that standing up for one's home team is to a great degree the same thing as standing up for one's home town, and that sort of loyalty builds cities.

SIMPLICITY AND STYLE.

With a finality that would become arbiters settling the destinies of nations, 296 members of the Eastern Milliners' Association in conference in New York have decided that hereafter they will wage war against simplicity in millinery. Such plainness, they say, makes milliners suffer. It was solemnly "resolved" that hobbie skirts and simplicity in dresses also were to blame for the drop in millinery profits and tailoring, and that methods should be adopted to convert simplicity into complexity.

Everybody knows how the campaign will be carried on. The battery department will tell milady that simplicity does not become her marvellous figure and her unspeakable face, or that a more elaborate bonnet would be much more becoming. The tailor will also low

graciously and say that skirts shaped like spinning tops are of the past.

The milliners and tailors may say that they have been losing money because of the tendency toward simplicity, but in reality many of them have been making more money than ever before, while the manufacturers of cloth and silks and satins are those who have been parting with profits. Whatever the experience of the milliners and tailors, the experience of the women who buy hats and gowns and the men who pay for them is that there has been no revision downward in prices. The manufacturers may have lost money because the tailors are not obliged to use so much material in making a gown, but the consumer is still paying at the same old rate.

Women have found out at last that simple hats and simple gowns are more becoming to them. For that reason the edit of the Manhattan stylemakers will have a hard time gaining ground.

SLUGGING SLANG OVER THE ROSES.

Now that Kansas has "reformed" about everything else, she is waging a campaign for the cultivation of "pure and dignified speech." The Kansas State University has started a war on slang—or rather against "backneyed, offensive, uninteresting" slang. Students are advised to avoid these expressions:

It's up to you. I don't think. Not on your life. You can search me. I guess. That's going home. Can you beat it? Sure I will. That looks quite spiffy. There's some class to that. Are you on? That's awfully nice. It's a cinch. Oh, fudge! Cut it out. Talking to beat the band. They're not in it. It's all bosh. Nothing doing. That's nifty. Never again. Cough up. He has nothing on me. The surest thing you know. Not to be sneered at. That's the real thing. Not by a long shot. I see his finish. Get the hook. That will be about it.

These phrases, or at least some of them, are national. Some are really not objectionable, and others are so only when outworn by repetition. Slang when lively and picturesque is all right, but stale slang ought to get the kibosh.

Champ Clark's "houn dawg" may be Democratic, but blame if havin' a French chef an' a British feller to answer the door bell is.

The Roosevelt victory in Maryland was certainly a case of the "nigger in the woodpile."

Don't pledge yourself to any candidate for the Administrative Board. If you do, you hurt your city and you hurt yourself.

"King William needs good roads and King William must have good roads" is a timely truth voiced by the West Point News.

Fig culture in Virginia seems to be profitable. A King William correspondent of the West Point News says that last year he had three fig bushes in his garden from which he picked and sold more than \$50 worth of fruit, "and had I given the bushes proper attention I do not know how much of the fruit I might have sold." There is a demand for figs, for the fig is one of the finest and sweetest of fruits, extolled from the earliest times by the chroniclers, who classed it with the pomegranate and the grape.

An Atlanta paper publishes a chart showing the number of Pullman cars leaving Atlanta every day for various points, but it will take a thousand more a day before all the people who want to leave Atlanta to come to Richmond can be accommodated.

Ever notice how many of the lately returned from Europe "just missed coming back on the Titanic?"

It was clean-up day in Highland Park yesterday, but the real clean-up day will be that of the Democrats in the November national election.

It "looks like" there won't be a spot of Coal Grease left after the South Carolina election.

A Virginian will be in the next President's Cabinet.

The increase in paid capitation taxes means a corresponding increase in capitation of cut-throat politicians.

Electric fans can now be put in the attic until next January.

"I wish only one term as President of China," says Yuan Shi Kai. It would be well, however, to get a signed statement from him as to whether he means "conservative term."

There is a good market these days for fish hooks.

This is the age of those who "view with alarm."

A New York Supreme Court judge says a wife has the right to nag. Wonder if the decision was inspired?

A Pennsylvania man is said to have been saved from capital punishment by the beauty of his voice, but there are a good many "artists" that most people would like to kill.

May you soon regain perfect health in the sunshine and roses of Hot Springs, Judge With! That is the wish that goes out for you from everybody as you rest and find balm in the Arkansas water, and when you are well again the people of Richmond will join happily and unanimously in recalling to you justly popular a judge from the land of the red necks and hillbillies.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

That Cruel War.
 Chihuahua, Mexico, May 10.—General Paprika, in command of the Federal forces, says if this war is to continue with a sort of success, the American soldiers must stay off from the battlefields, or at least they must stop crowding the troops and breaking up the formations. It is decidedly embarrassing for a Mexican soldier to draw a head on a rebel and some man from Ford's Junction, Va., who is taking a snapshot, and besides, it is liable to start international complications.

Senior Colorado Madero, who has the privilege on all battlefields, reports several accidents. He says several of his machines have run into barricades and intrenchments and if the soldiers do not stop tearing up the ground for these purposes, he will withhold his concession money and the war will have to stop for lack of funds.

General Perfecto, of the rebel army, was shot nineteen times before breakfast. The camera man who did the shooting says the general stood the ordeal well.

Mexico City, May 10.—President Madero is going to resign tomorrow. He has said so himself.

Later—What President Madero actually did say was that he was just as liable to resign to-morrow as on any other day in the future. Anyhow, inasmuch as to-morrow never comes, it doesn't make any difference what he did say.

President Madero, who is in very feeble health, ate three pounds of beefsteak for breakfast and walked nineteen miles for a short constitutional before luncheon. It is rumored here that the President is going to die. He probably will. Most people do.

There was a terrific battle just outside Carile Centro last evening. Kid Gomez, the pride of Mexico City, knocked out One Round Garcia after two minutes of fighting.

The Fair Fan, Again.

"Oh, it was a perfectly lovely game," said she that evening to a male friend.

"That so? What was the score?"

"The score was: Detroit, two hundred and one million, one thousand and one; and Cleveland, one hundred and ten million, two thousand and one."

This is the score she had copied from the board on the back fence at the park:
 Detroit2 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1
 Cleveland1 0 0 0 2 0 0 1

At Last.

At last we can
 Sit down in ease
 And smoke our pipe
 Wherever we please.
 No one to disturb
 No one to say:
 "Get out of here."

You're in the way."
 No being chased
 From chair to chair
 Without a safe
 Spot anywhere.
 To rest one's bones
 Or read a book
 In any old
 Secluded nook.

No eating on
 The kitchen floor
 No cold and stale
 Grub, anymore.
 No rags to thump
 No floors to scrub,
 No porch to wash,
 No glass to rub,
 No tacks to drive,
 Or thumbs to smash,
 No nails or bolts
 Found in the hash.
 No family jars
 Or repartee
 Of crass sort.
 By wife and me.
 No sleeping on
 The kitchen stove
 Or on the floor.
 Or the alcove.
 No clothes shut in
 The folding bed
 Far out of reach
 Out in the shed.
 To live again
 We've just begun.
 At last, at last—
 Housecleaning's done.

Voice of the People

The Dog Question—And Other Things.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
 Sir—The writer of a recent letter in The Times-Dispatch, headed "Ware the Dog," sounds a note of timely warning. He is not the only one who wants to know why such creatures as bulldogs and bull terriers are allowed to roam the streets at will, menaces to humanity.

A city law requires the owner of a bulldog to keep him off the street, unless muzzled. Yet the dangerous, tenacious brutes fairly infest certain neighborhoods, usually those sections visited by the police. They run at large by night and by day. Some of them are unlicensed, their owners claiming that the license law is "hard on dogs," meaning that it is hard on their own pocketbooks. Where are the dog-catchers? Have they been eliminated from the employ of the city?

Recently, a few blocks from the City Hall, a handsome and valuable cat of rare breed was snatched by a pack of neighborhood bulldogs, as she lay on her owner's front porch, and the gentle little creature was captured and killed on her owner's premises. Of course, nobody thought himself to blame, and nobody felt any obligation to put any check upon his dog. It matters little to such a one that children are constantly subjected to the risk of being severely bitten. It never concerns him that his dog keeps the neighbors awake at night and breaks their rest in the early morning. Why should the convenience and comfort, or even the safety, of another person interfere with the pleasure and freedom of his dog? Often the neighbors pay the taxes that secure to him the municipal advantages he enjoys; but, if he ever thinks of that, it is only to fret that it is no more than they ought to do. To him the world is very small; it is bounded by the horizon of his own interests and pleasures—and he is it.

It is high time for the City Fathers to take some steps toward clearing out the horde of useless curs that range our streets. To see them, one would think that Richmond is one of the most provincial of country towns, and that the safety and comfort of human beings count for very little among us. The writer of The Times-Dispatch letter suggests a remedy by calling for equal suffrage and urging that women exert themselves to obtain a better dog law.

That is just the point! If women have a voice in our government, they could work far more effectively for this and for other desirable ends. But they are political nonentities; hence their efforts count for very little—especially with those members of the city government whose bulldogs and bull terriers are allowed to run wild, to commit depredations on the premises of other people. How shall we remedy the situation? Echo answers, "How?" There are not policemen enough to patrol frequently all sections of the city, and the fashionable streets have the first consideration. How shall we control other evils existing among us—for instance, our notorious "ring" politics? In a recent editorial in The Times-Dispatch it was asserted that "there is pressing need for adding 5,000 patriotic and incorruptible voters to the city electorate." Since then hundreds of men have responded to repeated urgings, alarmed by the newspaper accounts of the oligarchical power and spirit of Richmond officeholders. Bravo! But what we really need is new blood—a new spirit in the body politic; citizens who will not "blow hot" in moments of special peril and "blow cold" when danger ceases to threaten, but who will be always at the post of duty. It is in times of fancied security that the powers of evil obtain the strongest hold, though at first so insidious as to be almost unnoticed.

We do need an additional active, conscientious electorate to counteract the habitual indifference of the present citizen body and to put the political machine out of commission. As there are no new men among us to enfranchise, the only course open is to confer the suffrage upon our women. Experience has proved that in places where equal suffrage has been introduced, not only do a very large majority of the women vote, but the men are stimulated by the earnestness of the women, and vote in greater numbers than ever before.

GRACE VERNON.

Against Hypnotism.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
 Sir—In the issue of your paper of April 24 last, under "Queries and Answers," this appears: "Can you tell me how I may acquire enough magnetism to hypnotize others?" (Signed) C. S. Beverly.

If the questioner had the slightest idea of the most mischievous results, mental, physical and moral, ascribed to such practices by intelligent men who have spent a large portion of their lives investigating psychic phenomena and the train of evil consequences following.

Statestmen come an' go, but Bryan never leaves. Miss Tanney Apple hunt that's go prominent nobody knows her husband's first name.

HUMORS OF HOUSECLEANING TIME—THE BABY'S SAFETY DEPOSIT VAULT.

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1912, By John T. McCutcheon.)



"Well, I s'pose I'll have to clean this old doavenport."



"I wonder if there's anything lodged in here?"



"For the land's sake, if here isn't the watch we thought the chambermaid had stolen."



lowing, he would, instead of wanting to acquire such power, want power to put a stop to such a dangerous thing. But I am certain that he, like the majority of us, looks upon such manifestations as an innocent, laugh-provoking amusement—something to pass away an idle hour. To the onlooker it probably is, but what about the person who submits to such control? Is his will power, his power of resistance, strengthened?

Is it not surprising that men, broad-minded, well-read, deep investigating, as our legislators and other public platform men must surely be, have not in concert raised protest and had all such demonstrations driven from our State?

The writer has never studied hypnotism nor attempted the practice of it; he has never been hypnotized, nor would he submit himself as a subject for any such demonstration. He has learned enough, however, to recognize the danger, and could name one book alone that, if read thoughtfully and religiously (and by religiously is meant with a mind searching for truth), should convince any one of the evil of demonstrating such phenomena. WELL-WISHER.

Land Monopoly.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
 Sir—The card in Tuesday's paper, signed J. S. W., on "Taxation and Immigration," is very much to the point. In fact, it is the one great question before the people, though the professional politicians would have us think otherwise.

The tax reform movement, now well started, is the only way to cure the evils of to-day in Virginia—such horrible and unnecessary evils, as drunkenness, tuberculosis, prostitution and high cost of food. The modern study of political economy shows that most of these evils are not diseases in themselves so much as that they are active symptoms of a deep-seated malady in the body politic.

This hidden disease is land monopoly. It is the concealed armor of special privilege. It is the undue influence which makes poverty the inevitable companion of progress. Young men and young women start out in life with health and hope, and think that honesty and hard work are all that is necessary to produce the thing which goes to make up that thing called happiness. They soon find that there is a line of demarcation, an invisible barrier, or rather a mighty magnet, which sucks up the greater part of the wealth produced by labor and capital. Though wages rise, rent and the cost of living rise faster, and the real capital (the legitimate savings of labor) gets only 3 per cent. as interest.

Land absorbs (by means of rent) a portion of the wages of labor, and the interest of capital, leaving them only what can keep them from being destroyed altogether. This sounds very pessimistic for a young Virginian, but no evil can be cured until we are sure of the cause.

Political economy says that when we have such an unnatural condition as production of land and vacant lots everywhere, with rising cost of living, rent going up, and interest (real, legitimate interest) going down—the thing for the community to do is to put up the tax assessments on ground values to its full value, and then use the money in public service. At one move we can double our State revenue, double the production of food and encourage industry and thrift, and keep our boys and girls in Virginia.

"PIEDMONT."

Charlottesville.

Charlottesville.

Charlottesville.

Charlottesville.

Charlottesville.

Charlottesville.

Charlottesville.

QUERIES & ANSWERS

N. B. French.

Please inform me what county was represented in the Virginia Legislature in 1858 by Napoleon B. French and whether he was in the Senate or the House of Delegates. R. L. FRENCH.

He served as Senator; was from Mercer, and represented the district composed of Mercer, Giles, Monroe and Tazewell.

Pew Rights.

Is my right to the pew in my church one of personal property, or what? S. S. D.

From the letter there is no means of knowing whether the writer lives in Virginia or elsewhere. The following from Greenleaf will probably state the general law as well as any citation could. The right to a pew in church by the common law is merely a right to occupy it during divine service. In England the right of the church is in the parson for the time being in the United States this title generally depends on statutes enacted by the several States to regulate this description of property. In some of them pews are expressly declared to be personal estate, in others real estate. The right of the pewholder is subject to that of the proprietors or trustees or parish in whomsoever the general title is vested.

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